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Chairman: Mr. Asadi ..... (Islamic Republic of Iran)
later: Mr. Özügergin (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Turkey)
later: Mr. Asadi ..... (Islamic Republic of Iran)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 96: Training and research

(b) United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/53/14 and A/53/534)

1. **Mr. Ruggie** (Special Adviser to the Secretary-General), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) (A/53/534), said that in its resolution 52/206, the General Assembly had reaffirmed the growing importance of training activities and stressed the need to strengthen cooperation with the relevant national, regional and international institutes. Inter-agency cooperation had been one of the main features, and perhaps the key to the success, of the restructuring process of UNITAR. As an example, he cited the rapid increase in UNITAR training and capacity-building programmes over the past few months. An average of 10 training programmes per month were currently being conducted in developing countries, at United Nations Headquarters and at the United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna. UNITAR had been building partnerships in training and institution-building with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). In the area of multilateral trade diplomacy training, cooperative links had been established with the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

2. However, much remained to be done, bearing in mind that one of the goals of UNITAR was to strengthen its links with regional and national training and research institutions in developing countries of Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America, and with relevant institutions in countries with economies in transition. In resolution 52/206, the General Assembly had also supported the idea of UNITAR becoming a partner of the agencies and bodies of the United Nations system. UNITAR had received support from United Nations bodies such as the Joint Inspection Unit, the United Nations Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ). However, despite all of those achievements, contributions in response to the large-scale fund-raising effort launched by the UNITAR Board of Trustees remained modest. In his report, the Secretary-General had therefore again called on all Member States to generously support the Institute.

3. **Mr. Boisard** (Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research), introducing his report (A/53/14), said that the activities of UNITAR had three specific focuses: the development of new pedagogical concepts and training methodologies, which had had encouraging results and had helped to restore the credibility of UNITAR; more recent general characteristics and trends which were making UNITAR an effective training institute within the United Nations; and the need to fulfil the potential of UNITAR by embarking upon a process of strengthening and expansion.

4. With respect to pedagogical concepts and methodologies, he explained that whereas the goal of traditional training was to increase the individual's knowledge, the purpose of modern professional training was to improve the efficiency of institutions through the instruction of their staff, and was closely linked to capacity-building within the framework of national and international initiatives. Training should meet well-defined needs and should be incorporated pragmatically into the global human resource development process, thus contributing to the preparation and development of national strategies.

5. Ownership of the training process by the recipient institution or country was essential, and although a multilateral body such as UNITAR could collect and disseminate technical information, experience and knowledge and suggest conceptual frameworks, long-term objectives and immediate priorities must be established by the recipient country. For that reason, UNITAR had developed "national profiles" in order to encourage all national participants, both governmental and non-governmental, to jointly evaluate the existing infrastructure and identify ways of making it more effective. During the past few months, in cooperation with its partners in the field, UNITAR had prepared many national profiles in areas as diverse as toxic substances and wastes, financial management and the struggle against desertification. Another innovation in UNITAR programmes was the establishment of platforms for dialogue and exchange in order to address issues of global importance; those platforms covered a wide range of topics and were an extremely specific type of training for high-level staff. During the past three years, that new approach had led to a considerable increase in the number of programmes, which, moreover, would have been impossible without the participation of recipient States.

6. With regard to recent developments in UNITAR programmes, he said that during the reporting period, about 250 different programmes had been carried out to the benefit of some 8,000 participants, an unquestionably significant number. In the area of international affairs, UNITAR had continued to organize training programmes at various levels for diplomats accredited to Geneva. The New York Office, for its part, had responded increasingly quickly to the many requests from the diplomatic community; UNITAR had also re-established its training programmes in Vienna and, in cooperation with the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), had organized a programme on international environmental law for diplomats accredited to Nairobi.

7. In addition to those activities, UNITAR had a scholarship programme for which the demand was so great that it could accept only 10 per cent of applications. The scholarship programme covered issues such as international law, preventive diplomacy and, more recently, international migration law and policy. UNITAR had also continued its economic and social development programmes. Its recent activities had been carried out in accordance with guidelines established during the past five years. UNITAR had become a key player in the areas of training and institution-building, thus facilitating the implementation of international legal conventions and instruments in the area of environment.

8. The training programme for the application of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should also be noted. UNITAR had become an international consultant for the implementation of the Convention. In addition to the projects that were currently under way in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe, there were other programmes related to the other two conventions which had emanated from Rio, namely, the Convention to Combat Desertification and, to a lesser extent, the Convention on Biological Diversity.

9. UNITAR was including training in modern information and communications technologies in its programmes, in cooperation with ITU and UNESCO. UNITAR had steadily developed its training programmes in the legal aspects of debt management and public administration. In addition, it had just signed a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to organize joint activities in countries with economies in transition in Europe and Asia. Negotiations with the World Bank and IMF for the establishment of joint programmes in English- and French-speaking Africa were at an advanced stage.

10. All those activities had been organized by an autonomous body of the United Nations which had only about 40 staff members and a modest budget of barely more than $12 million per biennium. Those satisfactory results had been made possible by inter-agency cooperation which had been consistent, disinterested and, generally, of a high professional level. UNITAR, which was continuing to apply the guidelines which had been formulated by the Board of Trustees at the beginning of the restructuring process, had the objective of becoming the centre of a United Nations operational network for staff training and the strengthening of the institutional capacity of Member States. The training needs were so great that both UNITAR and the United Nations needed to step up their efforts, while the funds and programmes of the United Nations should recognize the advantages of having such a body within the Organization. Other things being equal, training tasks should be entrusted to UNITAR, instead of resorting to outside consultants who did not always have a multidisciplinary or intercultural perspective.

11. Although much remained to be done, with time UNITAR could become a genuine provider of innovative and useful programmes for many Member States. The industrial countries should provide more assistance to UNITAR. Those countries, which had legitimately demanded reform of the Institute, were benefiting from UNITAR programmes, and should therefore consider the possibility of resuming or increasing their financial support both to special projects and to the General Fund. Furthermore, the United Nations also benefited, albeit indirectly, from the activities of an institute which belonged to it and organized programmes which had been commended by Member States and, moreover, did not involve any costs. The United Nations Secretariat provided some logistical support to UNITAR, but the Organization could defray some costs which were not really operational costs. In 1997, in resolution 52/206, the General Assembly had called upon the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of providing facilities to UNITAR, since its programmes were provided at no cost. As the Board of Trustees had suggested, the United Nations could cover the cost of rental and upkeep of the UNITAR Offices in New York and Geneva.

12. In conclusion, he said that training strengthened institutions and was an integral part of economic and social development, and of the democratic process. During the next biennium it would be necessary to double the financial resources available to UNITAR so that it could become the institution that Member States had envisaged at the time of its establishment, namely, a responsible institution capable of devising and organizing, on behalf of the United Nations, training programmes which met the needs of Member States.

It was to be hoped that the industrialized countries and the United Nations would heed that call.

13. **Mr. Kamal** (Chairman, Board of Trustees of UNITAR) said that all the decisions adopted by the General Assembly since the restructuring phase had begun had been implemented. As a result, UNITAR had been completely revamped and had been transformed from a defunct institution into a dynamic member of the United Nations training system.

14. First, UNITAR had developed a functional training approach based on networking and partnership, and was actively cooperating with national, regional and international institutions, and with other bodies of the United Nations system. Second, an interdisciplinary approach had been developed to give a rapid response to requests by States. Third, innovative ideas and original methods were being applied in the courses which were being conducted, including the concept of the "national profile" in which most of the stakeholders of a country identified their own means and needs. Fourth, in the area of research, UNITAR had produced several action-oriented books on multilateral diplomacy, dispute resolution and assessment of peacekeeping operations. Fifth, UNITAR was playing an important role in helping developing countries deal with new concepts such as distance education, electronic trade and virtual libraries, as well as new information and communication technologies.

15. Those qualitative improvements had been accompanied by quantitative changes. During the past biennium, UNITAR had conducted 243 training programmes, benefiting 7,796 participants. All those positive results had been made possible by the guidance provided to the reform process by the Board of Trustees, and equally, to the dedication of the staff members of UNITAR and the remarkable leadership of its Executive Director.

16. The Board of Trustees was considering the possibility of the Institute becoming the main partner of the United Nations with respect to its programmes in developing countries and noted with satisfaction that, pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 52/206, some progress had been made in the systematic utilization of the Institute's services by agencies and bodies of the United Nations system. For example, UNDP had designated UNITAR as the executing agency of an important programme funded under the Global Environment Facility, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) was co-sponsoring a training programme on law and diplomacy in relation to international migration. The Board believed that there was great potential for cooperation between UNDP and UNITAR at the country level and that it should be utilized more fully, particularly through joint ventures with the offices of the United Nations resident coordinators.

17. The most crucial issue for the Institute's autonomy and viability was its financial situation, however, despite the widely shared recognition that it had successfully restructured and reformed itself, that its training programmes had become more relevant and that efficient management procedures had been adopted. A higher level of contributions to the General Fund, which had accounted for only 15 per cent of total income in 1997, was essential. It was surprising that the number of developing countries contributing to the General Fund was larger than the number of developed countries. Industrialized countries had benefited from UNITAR programmes 12 times more in 1997 than in 1980, but had contributed eight times less to the General Fund. What was even odder, several industrialized countries were benefiting from UNITAR training activities free of charge, without having resumed their voluntary contributions to the General Fund.

18. Moreover, while the United Nations had been one of the three largest users of the Institute's training programmes since the latter's inception and had availed itself of those services at no cost, UNITAR was required to pay rent for its New York Office and maintenance charges for its offices in Geneva. The Trustees felt that it would be fair for the Organization to take over those rental and maintenance costs, bearing in mind that the funds thus spared would be fully allocated to the development of new training programmes.

19. The comparative advantages and sound expertise of UNITAR, the success of its reform and restructuring process and the quality of its management and work made it clear that the Institute had fulfilled its commitment to donors, but donors had not responded in kind. The Trustees therefore renewed their appeal for sufficient resources to be provided to the General Fund of UNITAR.

20. **Mr. Herawan** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, stressed the need to make the large body of knowledge and experience accumulated by the United Nations system available to Member States. That task had fallen to the training and research institutions, including UNITAR, whose primary role of training had gained importance in recent years in response to globalization, the reforms within the United Nations and the increasing complexity of development.

21. The key to the success of the UNITAR restructuring process had perhaps been the strengthening of its links with national and regional training and research institutions. It

had received support from several partners, including the General Assembly, particularly the Second Committee, and donor and recipient countries. Another major step was the initiative to form partnerships with organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system in their research and training functions, and the systematic utilization of UNITAR services by organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions. Those measures should help to ensure that research and training activities were accorded a more visible and transparent role in support of the management of international relations, the execution of United Nations economic and social development programmes and, in general, the promotion of development in the current era of globalization. The Group of 77 and China believed that such activities helped greatly to give developing countries a better understanding of the main international issues, including negotiations and the peaceful resolution of conflict.

22. Since, even after its successful restructuring and revitalization, the Institute's activities could be undermined by a lack of financial support, and since its funding was essentially voluntary, the Group of 77 and China strongly supported the General Assembly's renewed appeal to all Governments and private institutions that had not already done so to contribute generously to UNITAR. They stressed the need for increased contributions to the General Fund and for developed countries which had benefited from the Institute's programmes to step up their contributions. In addition, since the services of UNITAR were also, to a major extent, utilized by the United Nations at no cost, the possibility of exempting the Institute from the payment of rent for its New York Office and maintenance costs for its offices in Geneva should be considered.

23. It was also important that States which had interrupted their voluntary contributions should consider resuming them, in the light of the successful restructuring and revitalization of the Institute. The Group of 77 and China were pleased to note that a large-scale fund-raising effort had been launched by UNITAR with the direct involvement of the Board of Trustees, and felt that the challenge for Member States was to forge policies and develop innovative ways of restoring adequate resources to UNITAR.

24. **Ms. Schneebauer** (Austria), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country of Cyprus and the European Free Trade Association country member of the European Economic Area, Norway, welcomed the recommendations made by the Joint Inspection Unit in its report entitled "The United Nations University: enhancing its relevance and effectiveness" (A/53/392) and endorsed the comments on the composition of the University Council and the need for it to more fully reflect the diversity of its stakeholders.

25. The European Union awaited with interest the strategic plan currently being prepared by the Rector of the University. That plan should establish a clear set of priorities for the future and ensure effective coordination of work with the other research and training institutions of the United Nations system. In that regard, the European Union supported the Secretary-General's comment on the need for the University to fulfil its function of guiding research policy, particularly interdisciplinary research.

26. With respect to UNITAR, the European Union welcomed the progress made in restructuring the Institute and putting in place a more appropriate training programme and more effective management. UNITAR should continue to give priority to areas where training needs were greatest and should tailor its programmes to the specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

27. As one of the main contributors to the UNITAR General Fund and Special Fund, the European Union commended the Institute's sound financial management, supported its valuable role as a primary provider of training and training-related research to the United Nations community and welcomed its efforts to expand its relations and cooperation with universities and non-governmental organizations.

28. On the question of closer working relations among the training and research institutions, the European Union reiterated the need to consider establishing a coordinating consultative mechanism composed of UNITAR, the United Nations University and the United Nations Staff College, in accordance with recommendation 2 of the Joint Inspection Unit report in document A/52/559. That mechanism should ensure a coordinated approach to research, training and related issues throughout the United Nations system, based on an effective, flexible division of labour, with the United Nations University (UNU) taking primary responsibility for research, UNITAR for training the personnel of Member States and the Staff College for training United Nations staff. In that regard, the possibility of transforming the Staff College from a project to a permanent institution should be considered. Likewise, cooperation between the United Nations training and research institutions could be improved if the relevant latest results of research carried out by UNU institutions were used in the activities of UNITAR and the United Nations Staff College.

29. **Mr. Nebenzia** (Russian Federation) said that he agreed with the conclusion of the Joint Inspection Unit that, while the University had performed its mandates in the areas of research, training courses and publications reasonably well, it had not yet succeeded fully in asserting its distinctive academic image and visibility within the United Nations system, had not made the best use of its potential as a "think tank" supportive of the normative processes of the United Nations system, nor had it become an intellectual bridge between the multilateral system of cooperation and the world academic community.

30. To that end, coordination between the University's scientific and research projects and the programme activities of the United Nations system should be strengthened. The University's programme should be updated to cover topics of particular interest such as the analysis of medium- and long-term world economic prospects, the assessment of the globalization of world markets and their focus on environmental issues, forecasts of emerging trends in the world economy coupled with an early warning mechanism for crises, and the global, political and socio-economic consequences of the introduction of advanced technologies.

31. In that regard, it was worth noting the promising work of the UNU/Institute for New Technologies (UNU/INTECH). Such work could be quite useful in terms of the theoretical approach to industrial development in the area of transfer of technologies, the structure of world technology markets, the assessment of bank loans for attracting investments to industry and corporate financing of technological innovations. It would probably make sense to establish a partnership mechanism between the Institute and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in that area; such a mechanism could be replicated in other UNU research institutes and other organizations of the United Nations system.

32. His delegation welcomed the strengthening of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) on the basis of its current mandate and noted the balanced approach adopted by the Institute in the execution of its various projects. In that regard, the coordination of training programmes between UNITAR and UNU, together with closer cooperation between the two institutions would help to improve the efficiency of the United Nations system in the field of personnel training.

33. In its resolution 52/206, the General Assembly had requested, *inter alia*, that experts from countries with economies in transition should be attracted for the preparation of the relevant training materials for the programmes and activities of the Institute. His delegation generally shared the assessments and proposals set forth in the report of the Executive Director of UNITAR (A/53/14) and, as a member of the Board of Trustees, intended to do all that was in its power to improve the Institute's efficiency in the interest of all Member States.

34. **Mr. Akunwafor** (Nigeria) said that he endorsed the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. His country, which had been supporting UNITAR for a long time, believed that, as an institute of the United Nations, UNITAR was uniquely placed to undertake the training and capacity-building programmes which would meet the needs of the international community in that area. In view of its conviction that UNITAR would discharge its mandate creditably, his Government had established a perpetual trust fund which had been used over the past six years to pay Nigeria's contribution to the General Fund. Such financial support would be maintained in future.

35. UNITAR had done its work effectively, since it had completed its restructuring process in less time than expected, had improved the development of its programmes and had intensified inter-agency cooperation. In recent months, an average of 10 different training and capacity-building programmes a month had been conducted in developing countries, at United Nations Headquarters and at United Nations offices in Geneva and Vienna. He hoped that agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system, developing countries and countries with economies in transition would systematically increase their utilization of the services of UNITAR.

36. The dedicated, decisive and transparent manner in which the Board of Trustees had guided the restructuring process had facilitated the Executive Director's work. Although no deficit had been declared since the beginning of the restructuring process, the situation of the General Fund remained vulnerable. It was ironic that the number of developing countries contributing to the Fund was increasing while the industrialized countries, that also enjoyed the benefits of UNITAR programmes, contributed less. The principles of equity and ability to pay dictated that the developed countries should resume their voluntary contributions to UNITAR as soon as possible.

37. In the previous year, his Government had requested the Secretary-General to consider allocating special assistance to UNITAR in view of the fact that the training courses conducted in the fields of international affairs and sustainable development were offered free of charge. The Board of Trustees had also stressed the need for the Institute to receive financial or material support. He hoped that

adequate measures would be taken without delay to address those needs.

38. *Mr. Özügergin (Turkey), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

39. **Mr. Beti** (Observer for Switzerland) said that the area of activity of UNITAR was training and institutional capacity-building, which consisted of assisting developing countries and countries in transition to better understand international issues such as negotiation, the peaceful settlement of disputes, modern information and communications technologies, environmental development or sound financial management. The efforts of UNITAR to concentrate training programmes and institutional capacity-building in strategic sectors should be encouraged. For example, as part of training and institutional capacity-building programmes for economic and social development, priority should be given to capacity for sustainable development, an area where UNITAR already had ongoing programmes.

40. Since its activities were not financed from the regular budget of the United Nations, UNITAR had to mobilize its own funds, which could come from voluntary contributions to the General Fund or contributions to the Endowment Fund. Since such resources were inadequate, member States, particularly the industrialized countries that utilized the services of UNITAR, should participate in the financing of the Institute, including through contributions to the General Fund, in order to guarantee the Institute's long-term development and the viability of its programmes. He wondered whether the United Nations, which was the main beneficiary of those programmes, could not consider covering at least some of the Institute's overhead or operating costs in Geneva and New York such as rents and the maintenance costs of its premises. It was general knowledge that the UNITAR Office in Geneva had been provided free of charge by his Government.

41. After a period of restructuring, UNITAR had entered a new phase in which the reconfirmation of its purpose and mission within the United Nations system was of vital importance. In order to consolidate the positive changes arising from that process, the same management team should be maintained. The Institute, which had achieved its most important goals in the service of research and vocational training, deserved the political and financial support of member States. His Government would continue to make voluntary contributions to the Institute.

42. **Mr. Ito** (Japan) expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the restructuring of UNITAR, undertaken with a view to ensuring that its activities were financed solely by the voluntary contributions received from Governments and private institutions and enhancing its efficiency. He also wished to praise the work carried out by the UNITAR Liaison Office in New York since its establishment in October 1996. As UNITAR had already addressed the issue of institutional reform, consideration must now be given to its future path, taking into account the international issues of greatest concern.

43. His delegation attached great importance to capacity-building in the developing countries based on their ownership of the development process, as stated in the Agenda for Action adopted at the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development, held in October 1998. Japan would continue to support the UNITAR training programmes, which focused on human resources development.

44. It was to be hoped that the survey of the training institutes and programmes of the United Nations, addressed to Member States, would help to improve coordination and eliminate duplication within the system, thereby enhancing their efficiency.

45. UNITAR, which had carried out a restructuring exercise, deserved member States' support in improving its financial situation, particularly that of its General Fund. Donor countries which had stopped making voluntary contributions should be invited to resume them. Japan had been establishing contacts in the Asian region with a view to promoting the strategy for mobilizing funds adopted by the Board at its meeting in March 1997. UNITAR should make every effort to ensure that the best use was made of the contributions it received and to improve the effectiveness of its activities in order to facilitate the task of recovering its former donors and attracting new ones.

46. **Mr. Ardel** (Israel) praised the work of UNITAR and its contribution to peace and rapprochement among peoples through research and training. Regional cooperation had been launched between Palestinian and Israeli governmental and non-governmental institutions with a view to building trust and overcoming cultural differences. In the past two years, the Centre for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel and Palestinian governmental and non-governmental organizations had been carrying out joint training programmes in the areas of education, culture and agriculture. The previous year had witnessed the organization of 25 courses taught by both Israeli and Palestinian professors, with the participation of some 700 teachers, doctors, engineers and community leaders.

47. His delegation proposed that the implementation of such programmes should be promoted through UNITAR and the United Nations University, which had a centre in Amman (Jordan). Israel was prepared to contribute to that end.

48. **Ms. Hawkins** (Australia) praised the major successes in the restructuring undertaken by UNITAR and said that Ambassador Wensley, who was Vice-Chairperson of the Board, hoped to continue working with UNITAR in order to guarantee the continuity of the governing body and help consolidate the status which UNITAR had acquired in the United Nations system.

49. **Mr. Delaney** (Papua New Guinea) noted the continuing importance of agenda Item 96 (b) and welcomed the progress achieved by UNITAR, with the advice of its Board of Trustees, particularly the efforts made to intensify inter-agency cooperation and strengthen ties with national and regional training and research institutes in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America, which had led to the joint design and implementation of projects. Equally praiseworthy were the training programmes for diplomats on analysing the negotiation of multilateral environmental instruments. Implementation of the proposal by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to carry out a training programme funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) would be a positive step.

50. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, cooperation must be strengthened with the relevant institutions of the countries with economies in transition. His delegation trusted that UNITAR training and research programmes would complement, rather than duplicate, similar activities being carried out at the national level.

51. The approach developed by UNITAR was pragmatic, comprehensive and multi-disciplinary, and its seminars were adapted to users' needs. The new concepts applied to research and training were also appropriate. It was regrettable that such a worthy institution and a source of universal education should constantly have to depend on voluntary contributions, donations and special-purpose grants. Taking into account that the General Assembly had recognized the extent to which all Member States had benefited from the UNITAR programmes, there was no doubt that the question of financing to guarantee the perpetuation of the Institute must be urgently resolved.

52. **Mr. Murat** (Haiti) expressed his delegation's support for the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and said that the role of UNITAR in the United Nations system had been clearly defined. Since its establishment by the General Assembly in 1963, it had advised United Nations bodies, the national institutions of Member States and non-governmental organizations through training programmes in a variety of disciplines (multilateral diplomacy and international affairs management, peacemaking and preventive diplomacy, environmental law, migration policy and law, capacity-building in the field of economic and social development). Such programmes demonstrated to the international community the importance of partnership with UNITAR in international affairs management and the implementation of economic and social development programmes.

53. He praised the valuable initiatives taken by the New York office, in response to delegations' needs, which were increasing with the rapid development of multilateral diplomacy and the international economy. While he welcomed the progress achieved by UNITAR with regard to consultation and coordination with other United Nations agencies, particularly the United Nations University, the Institute in general, and the New York office in particular, should be slightly more attuned to the multilingual reality of the United Nations and the economic disparity among Member States and take into account the comments and concerns expressed by the delegations of the various Member States.

54. The magnitude of recent problems confronting the international community required greater coordination of development policies, which was bolstered by UNITAR cooperation with the various agencies of the United Nations system. His delegation reaffirmed its support for the Institute and appealed for the adoption of measures to deal with the lack of financial resources impeding the capacity of UNITAR to respond to the needs arising on the five continents. In that context, the balance must be restored between the growing benefits derived by the industrialized countries from UNITAR programmes and the decline in their financial contributions.

55. *Mr. Asadi (Islamic Republic of Iran) resumed the Chair.*

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.